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25X1

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SUBJECT School for Tractor Operators at the
Katerinopolskiy MTS

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25X1 1. [redacted] tractor operators at the Katerinopolakiy Rayon Machine-Tractor Station (Mashino-Traktornaya Stantsiya-MTS) in Katerinopol (4857N, 3056E). There were about 40 students attending this school, practically all of whom were 15 or 16 years of age. These students were from the various kolkhozy in Katerinopolakiy Rayon, and had been selected by their respective kolkhos chairmen. [redacted] the only requirement for attending the school was a minimum of four years' education. The course was given free of charge and no expenses were incurred by the students. [redacted] these courses were conducted every three or four years thereafter, [redacted]

25X1 2. [redacted] eight hours a day for six days a week. There were about five teachers, who were also mechanics, at the MTS; [redacted] they received any extra compensation for teaching. Training manuals were provided, [redacted] spent the mornings in the classroom and the afternoons working on tractors. The principal subjects taught were: nomenclature of tractor parts, the composition of the metals in various tractor parts, tractor repair and maintenance, the operation of a tractor, and the proper use of fertilizers (the latter subject was taught by an agronomist about four hours each week). Actual tractor-operating instructions were not given until the third month. The tractors we worked on were prewar, kerosene-burning KhTZ and Universal II models.

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3. No examinations were given until [] completed [] course of study. 25X1
The final examination was conducted by a commission of 12 people.
The entire examination was oral, with no practical work or any attempt
to check [] driving ability. All the students [] passed 25X1
the examination, after which they returned to their respective
kolkhozy to work as tractor operators. Neither a certificate of
completion nor an operating permit was issued. Although approximately
half [] at school had been spent working on tractors, none
[] could be considered a mechanic. Repair and maintenance were
really learned on the job, when [] confronted with the various 25X1
kinds of tractor malfunctions.

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